

Community Energy



Lessons learned from 15 years

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Climate Change Reality



- “The latest science makes it clear that the world needs to reach zero carbon emissions globally by 2050 to maximise chances of staying below 2 degrees and to make 1.5 degrees feasible,”... Mary Robinson, NUI maynooth, Summer 2015.

- Paris: “long term 2.0°C” / “or $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}</math>”*$
- February 2016 is 1.55°C - $1.75^{\circ}\text{C}</math>* - Nasa$
- White Paper: 80%-95% CO_2 by 2050

Without citizens and communities demanding change and being part of the transition, the transition will not happen. Without value for citizens & communities, they won't demand change.





Community Energy is a collectivisations of energy actions to ensure societal and economic aims met.

They must:

... be of value to the individual and the community

....make sense economically. (Grants/ FiT help)

... be fundable.

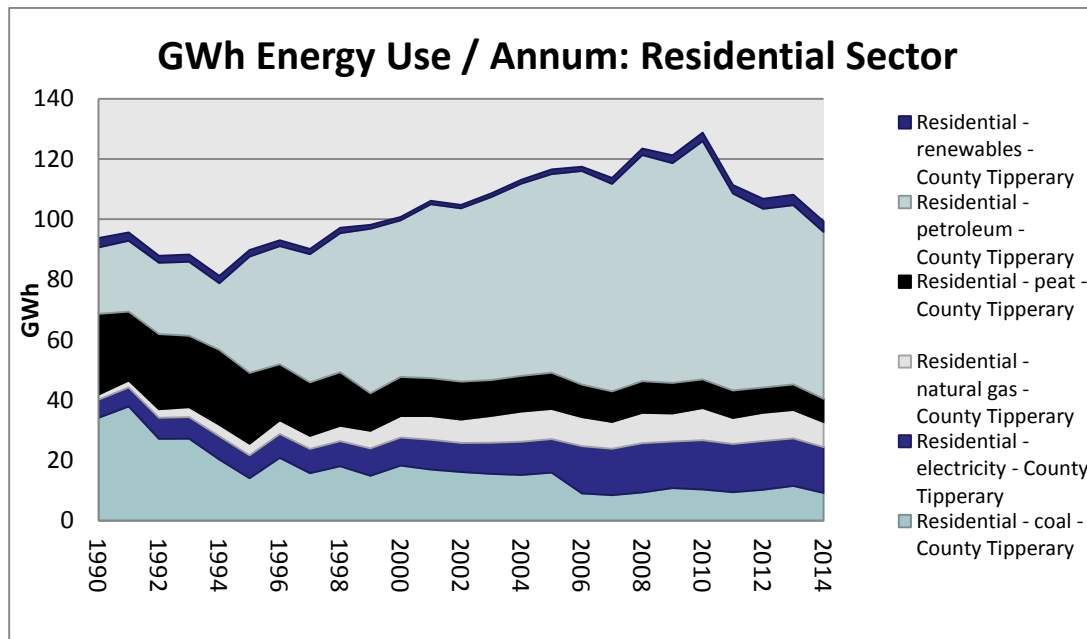
... be practical.

... obey the laws of physics





- Community energy projects are energy projects.
- Where is money being spent on energy in your community = Where it can be saved.



- Follow the money
- Choose initial projects wisely.
- Develop capacity within community

- Large projects: think like an investor...



- Energy projects aren't that complicated.... but
- Need to professionally manage, engineer, finance and legal.
- Most resources are within communities.
- Financing projects isn't the barrier
- The challenge is preparing projects for financing.
 - Grid is a major policy failure
 - Planning is challenging for large wind
 - Assembling projects takes lots of time, volunteers burn out.



- Need vision, leadership, drive, hard work.
- Failure will happen. Learn from it and move on.
- Sometimes knowing all the challenges you would never start.
- “It can’t be done” It can, it must.

“**Nothing** in the world is **worth having** or **worth doing** unless it means effort, pain, difficulty..”

T. Roosevelt



- www.aceforcommunities.co.uk
- www.sustainco.info (NZEB)
- www.tea.ie (case studies)



Ace for Communities

Building citizen engagement in to community projects

[Designing Projects](#) >
 [Forming Groups](#) >
 [Funding Projects](#) >
 [Marketing Projects](#) >
 [Running Events](#) >
 [Holding Meetings](#) >
 [Measuring Success](#) >

Welcome

Community engagement is a fundamental building block for community projects. Whether it is buying shares, giving up free time to volunteer or supporting a planning application, buy-in from citizens is key to success. However, understanding the importance of citizen engagement in principle is the easy bit; knowing what to do in practice can be more difficult.

This website is designed to help individuals and community groups build in citizen engagement as they initiate, plan and deliver projects with sustainable use of energy and resources at their heart. It does this by providing detailed ideas, tips and real life case study examples for everything from recruiting an initial core group and holding the first event, to integrating community participation into decision-making processes, developing effective communication channels and maintaining interest and enthusiasm over the long term.

Click on the categories below to get started or visit the [How To Use](#) page for more information.



Designing Projects

Building citizen engagement into your project concept, planning and delivery.



Forming Groups

Recruiting your group and ensuring it is an engaging force in the community.



Funding Projects

Funding your project from the community and external sources.



Marketing Projects

Marketing your project online, in print, face-to-face and via the press.



Running Events

Engaging the community through different types of events.



Holding Meetings

Running meetings for your core group, volunteers and the public.



Measuring Success

Establishing a baseline and evaluating the success of projects and events.



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- Non profit, public good social enterprise
- Partnership approach
- Energy management
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Procurement, project mgmt.
- Cost effective, value driven